

1. Don't frighten the ICE guys. They have guns and other less lethal weapons. During the time I was at the protest, young men would go nose to nose with ICE agents, shouting and maligning them before the ICE people had done anything. De-escalation would have helped but only a few of us were on that page. That said, South Burlington deputy police chief Sean Brisco did a great job of quieting folks and formulating a plan.
2. I believe local police should be present at every ICE event
3. I believe the police have a responsibility to understand what the ICE objectives are.
4. I believe the police should cooperate with ICE if the objectives are lawful and if the ICE agents are acting lawfully. In the case of Dorset Street, detaining people ICE did not have warrants for was a grave overreach.
5. I believe that help from community leaders could have talked their way into the house avoiding a violent and terrifying entrance.
6. Our police departments should protect the rights of all Vermonters no matter who is threatening them.

Respectfully,

Jean Szilva, MD